

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
FOLSOM DAM SAFETY AND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION  
JOINT FEDERAL PROJECT  
STILLING BASIN COFFERDAM

Project Background

The Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Joint Federal Project (DS/FDR Project) is a joint project with the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board, CVFPB, (formerly the Reclamation Board) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, (SAFCA), are the non-federal and local sponsors of the FDR portion of the DS/FDR Project.

The DS/FDR Project consists of a new spillway capable of safely releasing 160,000 cfs into the American River. The DS/FDR Project will provide significant flood damage reduction benefits to the Sacramento Area and will improve the structural integrity of the Folsom Dam and its appurtenant structures.

An Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the DS/FDR Project was circulated for public review in 2007 and the two federal agencies signed a Record of Decision on May 3, 2007. The Reclamation Board, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, certified the EIR for the Flood Damage Reduction portion of the DS/FDR Project on July 20, 2007, Resolution 07-03.

Since that time, some elements of the DS/FDR Project have been refined as more details have become known and the participating agencies circulated a draft Supplemental Joint Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (SEA/IS) to disclose the potential impacts of these elements. The CVFPB is sponsoring only one of these elements, the Stilling Basin Cofferdam (Cofferdam).

Project Description

The Cofferdam is a safety feature required to keep the area of the stilling basin dry to protect workers during construction when water is released during high water events from the existing dam outlets and spillway.

The Cofferdam will consist of a concrete wall approximately 55 feet high and would extend across the stilling basin excavation site to high ground on either side. All, or most of it, will be removed after construction of the Stilling Basin is complete.

### Project Location

The Project is located a short distance to the east of the existing Folsom Dam in the City of Folsom, Sacramento County.

### Potential Significant Impacts

Based on the information in the draft and Final SEA/IS, the construction of the cofferdam could have a significant adverse impact to air quality, aquatic resources, soil erosion and noise.

#### *Air Quality*

Best Management Practices (BMP) approved by the Reclamation Board in July 2007 for the DS/FDR project will reduce impacts to air quality from dust and emissions. Although emissions from the construction of the cofferdam will be small, in combination with the emissions from the DS/FDR project they may exceed 85 pounds per day, which is considered significant. Significant air quality impacts will be offset with the payment of a mitigation fee to Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

Implementation of BMP and the payment of the mitigation fee will mitigate impacts to air quality to less than significant.

#### *Aquatic Resources*

The Cofferdam will reduce impacts to aquatic resources during construction of the spillway. The construction of the Cofferdam could have impacts to aquatic resources. Implementation of mitigation measures approved by the Reclamation Board in July 2007 for the DS/FDR project will mitigate these impacts to less than significant.

#### *Noise*

The construction of the Cofferdam will occur in an area removed from any sensitive receptors. Implementation of mitigation measures approved by the Reclamation Board for the DS/FDR Project in July 2007 will reduce the impacts from noise to less than significant.

#### *Soil Erosion*

The construction of the Cofferdam would be unlikely to contribute to soil erosion. Implementation of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan approved by the Reclamation Board for the DS/FDR Project in July 2007 will reduce any impacts from soil erosion to less than significant.

### Findings

Based on the information in the February 2008 Draft and the April 2008 Final Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Project – Stilling Basin Cofferdam, the comments received and in the entire record, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board finds that although the Cofferdam Project could have significant impacts on the environment, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Cofferdam Project that reduce these impacts to less than significant.

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD  
RESOLUTION 08-12  
FOLSOM DAM SAFETY AND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION  
JOINT FEDERAL PROJECT  
STILLING BASIN COFFER DAM**

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation, (Reclamation) is the federal sponsor and lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Project (DS/FDR Project), the U S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is a federal Cooperating Agency, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Board, (previously the Reclamation Board) is the non-federal sponsor and lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency(SAFCA) is the local sponsor and a responsible agency under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, (EIS/EIR), was prepared and circulated for public review in 2007 for the DS/FDR Project; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation and the Corps signed a Record of Decision DS/FDR Project on May 3, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Reclamation Board certified the EIR for the FDR portion of the DS/FDR Project and filed a Notice of Determination in July 2007, (Resolution 03-07); and

WHEREAS, since that time, some elements of the DS/FDR Project have been further defined; and

WHEREAS, the participating agencies concluded that these elements required further environmental analysis and prepared a draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (SEA/IS) for these elements; and

WHEREAS, the draft SEA/IS was circulated for public review from March 4 to April 4, 2008, and

WHEREAS, comments and responses to the comments have been provided in a Final EA/IS;

WHEREAS, the Board is sponsoring only one of the elements discussed in the draft EA/IS, the Stilling Basin Cofferdam (Cofferdam);

WHEREAS, the incremental additional potentially significant impacts from the construction of the Cofferdam are mitigated by the mitigation measures approved by the Reclamation Board for the DS/FDR Project on July 20, 2007 and included in the

Mitigation Monitoring Plan approved at that time, no additional Mitigation Monitoring Plan is necessary for the Cofferdam project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board

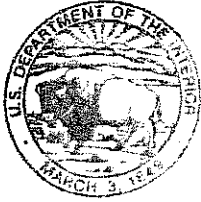
1. Has considered the draft and Final EA/IS and finds that on the basis of the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Cofferdam will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board; and
2. Adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
3. Approves the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Joint Federal Project Stilling Basin Cofferdam Project.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Benjamin F. Carter  
President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen Doherty  
Secretary



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Central California Area Office  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, California 95630-1799

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CC-419  
ENV-6.00

APR 14 2008

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Final Supplemental EA/FONSI

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Bureau of Reclamation's Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment /Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) is enclosed. This document tiers from the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction project as originally described in the May 2007 Safety of Dams and Joint Federal Project Records of Decision will not change as a result of the Final Supplemental EA/FONSI; rather, the Final Supplemental EA/FONSI describes, clarifies, and analyzes certain effects of project construction actions.

If you have any questions on the Final Supplemental EA/FONSI contact Elizabeth Vasquez, Natural Resource Specialist, at 916-989-7192 or [FolsomJFP@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:FolsomJFP@mp.usbr.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard M. Johnson  
Acting Area Manager

Enclosure